



# *The Old Ironsides Report*



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## 2-3FA helps oldest hospital in Aadhamiya

By Sgt. Mark Rickert, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Al-Nuaman Hospital is the biggest and oldest public hospital in the Aadhamiya neighborhood district. During the war, the hospital remained operational, providing care to its patients, even when the battle jeopardized supply routes.

Now that the war is over, medical supply lines are still slow, and on top of that, many parts of the hospital are falling apart. Although the hospital escaped the damage of war, the damage of time is steadily progressing.

When the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division, established its post within the Aadhamiya district, 1st Lt. Jaime Davila, a medical officer with the 2-3 Field Artillery realized that U.S. forces needed to support the hospital.

“When I arrived here in Aadhamiya, the Al-Nuaman Hospital was fully operational, but they needed support,” Davila said. “As a medical officer of the battalion, it is my duty to improve the health care system and the level of health care that is provided.”

After assessing the hospital’s needs, Davila immediately tracked down a stockpile of intravenous fluids. During this time, the temperature in Baghdad was skyrocketing, causing a steady influx of patients. Davila coordinated with a medical warehouse in Baghdad, and arranged for a five-ton truck to bring a full cargo of intravenous fluids.

“All hospitals needed fluids during this time,” said Davila, “especially here in Baghdad, with so many people wounded in the war, and people dehydrating.”

The 2-3 FA’s support reached its climax recently, when an explosion at a nearby detergent factory caused a release of chemicals in the air, which affected the local residents.

“We got a call that there were mass casualties involving inhalation injuries,” said Davila. “They needed medication, intravenous tubing, catheters and so on. The problem was that the incident happened late at night, and there was no way the hospital could get what it needed.”

As fate would have it, the 2-3 FA had already stockpiled medical supplies at their base camp. Because of a new Iraqi army training program there on post, the 2-3 FA had recently visited an Iraqi medical warehouse and picked up supplies to start a “mini aid station” where Iraqis could treat heat casualties and other injuries.

“It was a life saver to them,” said Davila.

“Afterward, we all said, ‘man, how lucky we had all that stuff!’”

“We were very appreciative of their support,” said



**1st Lt. Jaime Davila, a physician's assistant with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, 1st Armored Division, visits a patient at the Al-Nuaman Hospital in Baghdad.**

Dr. Thair Al-Rawi, the director of Al-Nuaman Hospital. “We felt they did everything they could do to help us.”

The support from the 2-3 FA won’t stop there. Davila is pushing for funds so that the hospital can refurbish its emergency room and outpatient clinic. Because the hospital is so old, many of its older buildings are in poor condition. In many buildings, the ground floor is uneven and the walls are cracked. There are holes in the ceiling and air-conditioning units need repairing.

The hospital has teamed up with engineers from the Baghdad University. They are planning the reconstruction, as well as drawing up blueprints. The 2-3 FA is now coordinating the funding for the project.

“The Army has helped us, step by step, with planning and budgeting,” said Al-Rawi. “Davila visits with us regularly, and we feel he is helping as best as he can.”

“It establishes good rapport to have an open communication with fellow medical providers,” said Davila. “The ones who will benefit most are the local Iraqis. We want to provide them with a decent building that is suitable, a clean, hygienic, and up-to-standard medical facility.”

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## NEWS

### **Tues. Deadline for Leak-Related Material**

WASHINGTON (AP) - White House employees were given until Tuesday to turn in all documents that might aid investigators looking into who leaked the name of an undercover CIA officer to a columnist.

Alberto Gonzales, President Bush's legal counsel, sent a memo to employees Friday saying that to comply with deadlines set by the Justice Department all materials must be turned in to his office by 5 p.m. Tuesday.

### **Activist Pushes for Democracy in Cuba**

HAVANA (AP) - A leading activist on Friday delivered more than 14,000 signatures to Cuba's parliament demanding a referendum for sweeping political changes in a new challenge to Fidel Castro's government.

It was the second year in a row that activist Oswaldo Paya has delivered piles of signatures to the government as part of the Varela Project - seen as the biggest homegrown, nonviolent effort in more than four decades to push for reforms in Cuba's one-party system.

### **Proposed Afghan Constitution Helps Women**

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - The writers of Afghanistan's new constitution say they want to revolutionize the way women are treated in this devoutly Muslim country by banning forced marriages, bridal dowries and other forms of discrimination.

Proponents say the constitution will be a turning point in a land where most women are still cloistered at home, wear all-encompassing burkas in public and were barred from working and school under the hard-line Taliban militia.

### Chaplain's Thought for the Day:

#### **Acts of Kindness**

*When we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or the life of another.*

*--Helen Keller*

It is a great loss when we underestimate the importance of our efforts in the life of another. One man, who had to spend some time in a hospital, waited day after day to receive a card or a telephone call from those who cared. Some people, who he expected to call or write, did not. Others, who the man had not felt close to, and whom he did not expect to hear from, surprised him with their concern. He came to place greater value on those who had cared enough to call or send a card.

A little act, the best we have at that moment, makes a big difference to the person on the other end. Knowing this helps us make sure that all our acts, even the smallest, are as good as we can make them, because they all make a difference.

## **IN OTHER NEWS...**

### **Doctoral Student Finds Why Cookie Crumbles**

By THOMAS WAGNER, Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) -- Why does a cookie crumble? Using a laser beam to closely monitor the fault lines of cookies emerging from an oven, a doctoral student appears to have figured out how bakers can stop disappointing customers by shipping crumbled ones.

In fact, the discovery could result in the perfect cookie, or "biscuit," as it is called in Britain. For generations, the "bicky" has been a key ingredient at afternoon tea, that middle-of-the-day tradition practiced by everyone from the queen to her servants.

Customers who find crumbled cookies in their packages often blame mishandling by the manufacturer, the shipping company or workers who load supermarket shelves.

But that's not what Qasim Saleem, a doctoral student in mechanical engineering at Loughborough University in Leicestershire, and his colleagues discovered when they applied the complex and exalted field of physics to the mundane matter of cookies.

The discovery was published Thursday in *Measurement Science and Technology*, a journal of the Institute of Physics in London. It reads more like a technical treatise on fault lines in California than a report about fragile Oreos and Rich Tea biscuits.

Saleem and his colleagues closely monitored the surface of cookies as they cooled to room temperature.

Using a laser beam, the students followed the tiny deformations that evolve as the cookie picks up moisture around the rim, which causes the biscuit to expand, while loss of moisture at the center causes it to contract. The resulting strains can pull the biscuit apart, or leave it more vulnerable to breakage before purchase.

The report said manufacturers often handle this costly problem by removing the offending cookies before they reach the customers. However, no quality control system is perfect, so biscuits with minor cracks often end up with the customer.

"We now have a greater understanding of why biscuits develop cracks shortly after being baked," said Saleem.

He said the discovery should help cookie manufacturers adjust the humidity and temperature of their production lines to minimize cracking.

Richard Wildman, Saleem's supervisor at Loughborough University, said the study was far from trivial.

Wildman said biscuits are an incredibly complicated multiphase product of fats, solids and air whose movements are hard to predict.

"You do need high technology from the aerospace industry and the power of modern physics and engineering to understand the complicated biscuit," he said. "That's what Saleem did."

### *Safety Tip of the day...*

#### **Accident Prevention**



- **Prevent accidents by enforcing standards**
- **Leaders should know their high-risk soldiers and counsel them prior to mission execution**
- **Don't walk by; make on-the-spot corrections of unsafe actions**
- **Enforce the risk management process to reduce mission hazards**

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## AMERICAN LEAGUE DIVISION SERIES

RED SOX vs. ATHLETICS

Oakland leads series 2-0

Best of 5	Game 1 @ OAK <a href="#">Recap</a>   <a href="#">Box</a>	Game 2 @ OAK <a href="#">Recap</a>   <a href="#">Box</a>	Game 3 Sat @ BOS 7:36 p.m.	Game 4* Sun @ BOS 1:06 p.m.	Game 5* Mon @ OAK 4:18 p.m.
	4	1			
	5	5			

TWINS vs. YANKEES



Series tied 1-1

Best of 5	Game 1 @ NYY <a href="#">Recap</a>   <a href="#">Box</a>	Game 2 @ NYY <a href="#">Recap</a>   <a href="#">Box</a>	Game 3 Sat @ MIN 1:06 p.m.	Game 4* Sun @ MIN 4:06 p.m.	Game 5* Mon @ NYY 8:18 p.m.
	3	1			
	1	4			

## NATIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION SERIES



CUBS vs. BRAVES

Series tied 1-1

Best of 5	Game 1 @ ATL <a href="#">Recap</a>   <a href="#">Box</a>	Game 2 @ ATL <a href="#">Recap</a>   <a href="#">Box</a>	Game 3 Fri @ CHC 8:06 p.m.	Game 4 Sat @ CHC 4:18 p.m.	Game 5* Sun @ ATL 7:48 p.m.
	4	3			
	2	5			

MARLINS vs. GIANTS

Series tied 1-1

Best of 5	Game 1 @ SF <a href="#">Recap</a>   <a href="#">Box</a>	Game 2 @ SF <a href="#">Recap</a>   <a href="#">Box</a>	Game 3 Fri @ FLA 4:06 p.m.	Game 4 Sat @ FLA 1:06 p.m.	Game 5* Sun @ SF 4:06 p.m.
	0	9			
	2	5			